

## **EXAMPLE #1**

### **Major League Baseball –Our National Past Time or has it Passed Its Time: The Rise, Fall and Future of African-Americans in Baseball**

In 1947 Jackie Robinson became the first African-American to break into Major League Baseball. Poetic images of #42 abound. MLB was the first in the sports arena to breakdown segregation and Jim Crowism in sport. The game was improved for the better. African-American baseball players peaked from 27% in 1975 (Ruck 1) to a slow decline over the years to 8.5% in 2011 (Lapchick 1). This paper asserts and will present research that suggests Major League Baseball itself has caused much of the attrition of African-Americans in baseball by covert discrimination and by its neglect of the black community.

This paper will focus on four aspects. First, a history of the Negro Leagues needs to be undertaken. Secondly, a discussion of integration and the positive and negative effects to baseball and society will be addressed. Thirdly, how Major League Baseball has failed to integrate fully. Lastly, what Major League Baseball is doing in response to the decline of African- American participation in baseball.

## **EXAMPLE #2**

### **Major League Baseball –Our National Past Time or has it Passed Its Time: The Rise, Fall and Future of African-Americans in Baseball**

Most everyone knows about Jackie Robinson, who in 1947 became the first African-American to break into Major League Baseball (MLB) in 1947. He is credited with breaking down the color barrier and led the integration for people of color into modern day sport. Poetic images of #42 abound. MLB was the first in the sports arena to breakdown segregation and Jim Crowism in sport. The game was improved for the better. The contributions of African-Americans in baseball have long been widely acknowledged since integration and written about. African-American baseball players peaked from 27% in 1975 (Ruck 1) to a slow decline over the years to 8.5% in 2011 (Lapchick 1). Why has there been such a precipitous drop of black players in MLB? While there has been much written about the decline to lack of space, lack of funds to organize, lack of baseball college scholarships and the move of African-American athletes to basketball, this paper asserts and will present research that suggests Major League Baseball itself has caused much of the attrition of African-Americans in baseball by covert discrimination and by its neglect of the black community.

This paper will focus on four aspects. First, to fully understand the connection of African-Americans and baseball, a history of the Negro Leagues needs to be undertaken. Secondly, a discussion of integration and the positive and negative effects to baseball and society will be addressed. Thirdly, how Major League Baseball has failed to integrate fully and its implications to the disconnect to the black community. Lastly, in conclusion, it will address what Major League Baseball is doing in response to the decline of African- American participation in baseball.